



# VICTORY TIMES



Vol. II, Issue 67

Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

September 1, 2008



**BIRTHDAY,**  
See pages 4-5

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Crisp, MNC-I PAO

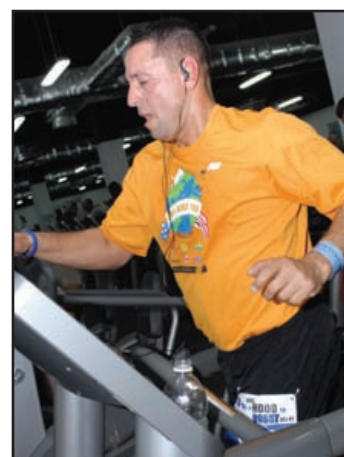
Sgt. Julius Toney, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Chorus, marches in place while singing cadence during a ceremony held Aug. 22 at the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Baghdad. The ceremony paid honor to the first parachute jump, and the XVIII Airborne Corps' 64th birthday.



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conference, Page 3



Stay safe,  
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Hood to Coast relay,  
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## COMMENTARY

### Victory Voices : *What do you do to stay fit while deployed?*



*"I run after work."*

**Staff Sgt. Akiesha Foster,**  
supply sergeant, Rapid  
Equipment Force



*"Go to the gym and wait  
for my Wii Fit to arrive."*

**Tech Sgt. Brian Tatum,**  
joint tactical air control-  
ler, 11 Expeditionary  
Air Support Operations  
Squadron



*"I do a rotation of all  
the muscle groups."*

**Staff Sgt. Lee Johnson,**  
maintenance noncommis-  
sioned officer, 445th Civil  
Affairs



*"Cardio and weights,  
we have some nice gyms  
here."*

**Maj. Isaac Williams, as-  
sistant program manager,  
Army Space Program  
Office**

## Chaplain's Corner

### *Service to God requires sincere thought, intention*

**By Chaplain Ibraheem Raheem**  
*Iraqi Assistance Group Chaplain*

"So announce the good news to my servants. They are those who evaluate all of the facts, and follow the best of them. They are those who God guides, and it is they who are endowed with insight" [Quran 39:17-18]

The above verses introduce the characteristics of the servants of God. They are not blind followers, but instead people of intellect. I begin this article with this pas-

sage intending to lay the foundation that any type of service to God requires sincere thought and intention. The practice of abstinence requires using intellect in order to overcome destructive behavior.

"...and they [people of intellect] contemplate the wonders of creation in heavens and earth and pray. Our Lord, You certainly have not created all of this without purpose. Glory to thee! Save us from destroying ourselves." [Quran 3:191]

The practice of abstaining from food and water is supposed to act

as a portal that connects our bodies and minds to our soul. The expression "the body is a temple of the spirit" sheds light on this idea. As we decrease our intake of the many additives and preservatives and pollutants into our body and begin to take in smaller meals with plenty of water we are in fact purifying our "temple". By abstaining from destructive behavior, and studying the Qur'an we are simultaneously purifying the soul. The true goal of abstinence in Ramadan is overcoming the destructive behavior

*See CHAPLAIN, Page 3*



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# Inspector Generals meet on Victory, discuss future

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Samuel J. Phillips**

*MNC-I PAO*

The Multi-National Corps – Iraq Inspector General’s office held the 2008 IG conference Aug. 21-22 at the Al Faw Palace. IG representatives from all over Iraq and Afghanistan attended the conference to discuss current and upcoming events.

The Inspector General acts as an extension of the eyes, ears and conscience of commanders. The IG also acts as the principal advisors in matters that relate to fraud, waste and abuse.

“I’m extremely glad that everyone could make it here for this conference. The Inspector General plays an important roll on the battlefield,” said Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general MNC-I.

There was one issue that Austin hoped would be a topic of discussion during the conference. “The major problem that I see is that Soldiers and units jump to the wrong conclusions when they hear IG. I think that one of the things that should be discussed is finding a way to better inform units about

the mission of the IG office.”

“It is important that we find a way to make sure that units are properly informed when it comes to IG,” said Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, deputy commanding general MNC-I. “Properly informed units can come to IG before an issue gets out of hand.”

These issues are exactly why the IG conference was being held. The IG offices understand the importance of generating an overall view of the issues in both Iraq and Afghanistan and the importance of devising a plan of action that will allow them to attack those is-

sues with full force, said Col. Ramon Valle, IG MNC-I.

Valle said to get this view and make this plan, each IG office gave a brief on the current issues that they are facing. This allowed others to see what trends were popping up. It also gave them the chance to see if the trends resembled the ones that they are experiencing.

The conference was extremely successful, Valle said. The information shared during the conference will be of a great help in molding the IG’s future plan of actions.



*All the representatives for Inspector General offices from across Iraq and Afghanistan gather for a group photo in front of the Al Faw Palace Aug. 22 at the conclusion of their two-day conference to overview their current status and discuss future plans.*

## CHAPLAIN from, Page 2

in our life. Also, if we can connect our hunger and thirst with those who are not able to break their fast around the world, Ramadan will make us more charitable human beings.

Ramadan is the month in which the Qur’an was revealed as a guide to mankind also as an exposition

to judge between right and wrong. Therefore whichever of you are witnesses of this month should spend it in abstinence... [Qur’an 2:185]

Part of the significance of the Qur’an’s revelation during this month was for us to understand that in order to live up to the values and

duties required of believers we must first be spiritually developed. So let us challenge one another towards purifying our minds, bodies and souls. Let us gain control over our urges, addictions and lusts this Ramadan and prepare for life’s spiritual challenges. Ramadan Mubarak.

# Camp Victory paratroopers celebrate airborne

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Crisp

MNC-I PAO

A two-fold ceremony took place at the Al Faw Palace here Aug. 22, one which celebrated a historic birthday as well as honored all airborne-qualified servicemembers from past and present.

The XVIII Airborne Corps turned 64-years-old Aug. 25, while the first official Army parachute jump celebrated its 68th anniversary Aug. 16. Both milestone events were celebrated in ceremonial fashion at the palace – complete with a birthday-cake cutting, a video on the history of the airborne force and a performance from the 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Chorus.

Paratroopers from all branches of service attended the ceremony, including past XVIII Airborne Corps general officers: former XVIII Abn. Corps Commander, retired Gen. William F. Kernan, and Multi-National Force – Iraq Commander, Gen. David H. Petraeus, who was chief of staff for the Corps from 2000 to 2001.

Presiding over the ceremony was the Corps' current 'Dragon 6' and commanding general of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III.

Austin outlined the history of the airborne for those in attendance.

"On August 16, 1940, Lieutenant (William) Ryder's platoon of volunteers lined up their parachutes on Lawson Field at Fort Benning, Georgia," Austin said. "Later that day, they climbed inside a B-18 aircraft and made their first jump from it while in flight. It was on this field in Georgia where a group of young Soldiers became the first paratroopers of the United States Army."

Austin went on to highlight past campaigns and achievements from airborne units, such as the 1943 invasion of Sicily with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment executing Operation Husky, to more recently with operations in Honduras and Panama.

"Since World War II, our airborne forces have earned an impressive reputation," Austin said. "They are known around the world because of their discipline, their tenacity and their will to win."

And that will to win has carried over to the Iraq theater of operations, he added.



Servicemembers from Camp Victory, bow their heads during the invocation at a celebration ceremony honoring the first parachute jump and the XVIII Airborne Corps' 64th birthday.

"The Sky Dragons of the XVIII Airborne Corps and all paratroopers have continued to maintain a professional, warrior reputation through their actions here in Iraq – which is extremely important in a counterinsurgency environment," Austin said. "As I walk through markets in places like Mosul and Sadr City, it is clear to me that Iraqi citizens have faith and trust in our troopers – and that is absolutely necessary for us to achieve our goals."

One trooper in attendance, Spc. Eric-Brandon Oce, who is deployed with the Corps' security and intelligence section, took part in cutting the birthday cake with Austin, Kernan and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen, MNC-I and XVIII Abn. Corps' top noncommissioned officer.

"It feels great to be able to take part in history, and it was a nice surprise," said 20-year-old Oce, an 11-jump



# orne history, XVIII Airborne Corps' birthday



ocation given Aug. 22 at the Al Faw Palace during XVIII Airborne Corps' 64th birthday.



Sgt. Jay Goldsborough, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Chorus, addresses a crowd of service-members gathered to celebrate the first official parachute jump, which took place Aug. 16, 1940, and the XVIII Airborne Corps' 64th birthday, at a ceremony Aug. 22 at Al Faw Palace.

veteran from Cooper City, Fla. "I was made aware yesterday that I was going to be able to take part in the cake cutting, and I'm really glad I did."

While one young paratrooper took part in the ceremony, a veteran of 269 jumps veteran did as well.

"You can't help but feel proud to be Airborne during a ceremony like this," said Chaplain (Col.) John P. Hash, MNC-I chaplain, who gave the invocation.

The ceremony was complete as the Army, the XVIII Abn. Corps and the U.S. colors marched from the rotunda, but it was a final word from Austin, said during his speech, which highlighted that which all in attendance were there to celebrate: "... Airborne!"



Retired Gen. William F. Kernan, former commander, XVIII Airborne Corps, shakes the hand of Spc. Eric-Brandon Oce, security and intelligence, MNC-I, following the cutting of the XVIII Airborne Corps' birthday cake at a ceremony Aug. 22 at Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory.



# Get to know a Soldier...

**Interview and photo by**  
**Pfc. Eric J. Glassey**  
*13th Public*  
*Affairs Detachment*

**Sgt. 1st Class**  
**Steven Downey**

**Unit:** 168th Brigade  
Support Battalion  
**Job title:** Iraqi Truck  
Company NCOIC  
**Age:** 41  
**Time in Service:**  
14 and a half years  
**Hobbies:** "I  
like wrenching

(fixing) on cars."

**Person you most**  
**admire:** "My mother."

**Why you joined:**  
"I like it. I get to go  
all over the world."

**If you weren't in the**  
**military you would be:**  
"I would be working  
on cars."

**One thing you'd**  
**change about the**  
**Army:** "I would bring  
back the technical  
rank of Specialist  
5th and 6th Class."

**One thing you'd never**  
**change about the**

**Army:** "The standards  
of discipline."

**Unusual fact about**  
**you:** "I speak  
fluent German."

**Something you wish**  
**everyone would do:**  
"What they are told."

**Words of wisdom:**  
"No matter what  
you do in life, be  
the best at it."

**Goals:** "Retire  
after twenty years  
and teach."

**Best thing about**  
**being deployed:**  
"Watching Soldiers



develop into leaders."

**Best Boot Camp**  
**memory:** "My 15-  
mile road march."



## Make conscious decisions to be safe



**By Jesse Martin**

*Corps Safety Office*

Safety doesn't just happen. Everyday we all must make a deliberate decision to do things the safe way. Completing daily task as simple as driving to Baghdad International Airport, picking up mail or cleaning your weapon must have safety as your first priority.

When you make the decision to be safe you not only maintain discipline standards but it prevents injuries in a preventable accident. The truth is we're getting better in the area of safety, but our work

is not done.

Safety, accident prevention, composite risk management and risk mitigation are terms you will hear and read in our regulations and policies. They are all important but the bottom line is readiness. When someone gets hurt in an accident, it directly affect the unit's readiness. Individual unit readiness affects overall readiness.

Enlightened leaders understand the value in creating and fostering a strong safety culture within their organizations. It promotes good health, increases morale and productivity. Safety should be elevated to a value of an or-

ganization as opposed to an additional duty or quarterly training. A proactive approach to accident prevention demonstrates the importance of working safety into the entire culture of the organization.

Anyone can and everyone should make the "on the spot corrections" and/or stop a potential life threatening situation immediately. Don't just walk away and think that it's not in your job or not your lane.

Don't be the person who walks away and says, "I knew that was going to happen." Do something now.

## Announcements

### Legal Services

Cooley Law School is offering service-members free legal consultations, via video-conference, with an attorney to answer questions regarding civilian legal matters. The first Wednesday of each month: 8-11 p.m. (Iraq time); Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 2008. For more information contact Kathryn D. Hudacek, Director of Development, Freedom Calls Foundation at khudacek@freedomcalls.org, www.freedomcalls.org, (973) 290-7886

### CISSP Exams offered

Posting of Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) Examination for interested military of civilian personnel. POC is Michael Kahler, 822-2003.

### Story ideas for Victory Times

Do you know of a good story on Camp

Victory that you think should be covered for the Victory Times? Please submit your ideas to Staff. Sgt.. Joy Pariente at joy.pariente@iraq.centcom.mil. Please include any interesting facts about the topic and point of contact information.

### R&R Briefings

Reunion and Suicide Intervention Briefings are at the Victory Chapel, Monday at 3 p.m., Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. All service-members who are going on leave or re-deploying must attend this briefing.

### Toastmasters

Improve your public speaking skills while having fun with creative – goal oriented people. No speaking experience necessary. Capt. Armin Reyes 318-822-7627 Armin.reyes@iraq.centcom.mil.

## The Corps Report

The "Corps Report" is a 15 minute monthly television newscast highlighting the stories and events happening in the Multi-National Corps-Iraq area of operations. The program airs Sunday at 8:15 pm and Monday at 11:15 a.m. on the Pentagon Channel here in Baghdad. The August edition of the newscast will feature stories on Hope Chapel at Camp Victory, Logistics Training Advisory Teams at Taji and the Guam Liberation Celebration Day at Camp Victory to name just a few. Be sure and catch the latest edition of "The Corps Report" and contact the broadcast team here at MNC-I if you have a story idea. (822-8719).

### AFN Freedom Radio

Al Asad ..... 107.3	Fallujah ..... 105.1	Taji ..... 107.3
Ali Base ..... 107.3	Kirkuk ..... 107.3	Tal Afar ..... 107.3
Ar Ramadi.. 107.3	Kirkush ..... 107.3	Taqadum.. 107.3
Baghdad .... 107.3	Mosul ..... 105.1	Tikrit ..... 100.1
Balad ..... 107.3	Q-West ..... 93.3	All stations are FM

### Camp Victory Bible Studies

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F; Gospel Protestant Bible Study 7 p.m. Hope Chapel	Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 p.m. Purpose Driven Life Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell, Black Forge Conference Room)	Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Hope Chapel	Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Victory Chapel; Spanish Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 Book of Matthew Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell, Black Forge Conference Room)	Foundations Bible Study, Mini Chapel 6:30 p.m.	SeventhDay Adventist 10 a.m. Victory Chapel	

Do you have an announcement about an event of interest to the Camp Victory community? Contact Spc. Samuel J. Phillips at samuel.phillips1@iraq.centcom.mil with the information. Information for community announcements needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event to allow for timely publication.

### Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe  
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.  
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
Sports Oasis  
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.  
Education Center  
8 a.m.-midnight  
Camp Liberty Post Exchange  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Fitness Center  
Open 24 Hours  
Victory Main Post Office  
Monday-Sunday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
MNC-I STB Mailroom  
9 a.m. - noon  
5 - 7 p.m.  
Al Faw Palace Post Office  
Wednesday and Sunday  
1-6 p.m.  
Golby Troop Medical Clinic  
Sick Call  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon  
Dental Sick Call  
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.  
Mental Health Clinic  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon  
Post-Deployment Health Briefings  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m.  
Pharmacy  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;  
1 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon  
Legal Assistance/Claims  
Saturday-Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Worship Hours

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)  
Thursday  
7:30 p.m. .... Latter Day Saints Seminary  
Friday  
6:30 p.m. .... Jewish Shabbat Service  
Saturday  
11 a.m. .... Seventh Day Adventist Service  
8 p.m. .... Catholic Mass  
Sunday  
7 a.m. .... Liturgical Protestant Service  
2 p.m. .... Latter Day Saints Service  
4 p.m. .... Episcopal/Lutheran Service  
Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F)  
Tuesday  
7:30 p.m. .... Latter Day Saints Service  
Wednesday  
7 p.m. .... Men's Fellowship  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
11:30 p.m. .... Roman Catholic Mass  
Friday  
1 p.m. .... Muslim Prayer Service  
8 p.m. .... Women's Fellowship  
Sunday  
8 a.m. .... Eastern Orthodox Service  
10 a.m. .... Protestant Sunday School  
3 p.m. .... Church of Christ Service  
7:30 p.m. .... Latter Day Saints Service  
Hope Chapel (Bldg 24B)  
Monday  
12 p.m. .... Charismatic Prayer Meeting  
Sunday  
8:30 a.m. .... Collective Protestant Service  
10 a.m. .... Roman Catholic Mass  
12 p.m. .... Gospel Service  
6:30 p.m. .... Contemporary Protestant Service  
Warrior Chapel (Camp Liberty)  
Friday  
6:30 p.m. .... Victory Base Open Circle

MNC-I Chaplain's Office:  
822-7358

# Soldier runs Oregon relay from Baghdad



*Lt. Col. Jeff Mark runs his second leg of 7.25 miles in the 2008 Hood to Coast relay from Camp Victory, Iraq, Aug. 23 while a member of his Nevada Army National Guard unit follows behind in a vehicle draped with a team sponsor banner.*

### **Story and photo by Spc. Christopher M. Gaylord**

*13th Public Affairs Detachment*

Lt. Col. Jeff Mark, commander, 140th Military Police Brigade, participated in the 2008 Oregon Hood to Coast relay from Victory Base Complex via satellite phone Aug. 22-23.

Mark ran his three legs of the race – legs three, 15 and 27 – while his Vancouver, Wash., team stayed in close contact with him via satellite phone, which Mark used to figuratively pass the baton.

Starting out Aug. 22 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Fitness Center, Mark completed his first leg of 3.93 miles by treadmill, running to a video of the course sent over by his team.

For his second leg, Mark ran 7.25 miles the following

day around the entire camp, passing his starting point in the late morning hours.

Mark's goal was finally complete the evening of Aug. 23 with a third and final leg taking him 5.98 miles around Camp Slayer.

"It was a dream come true for me to be able to participate in the event," Mark said of running Hood to Coast from Baghdad. "If you're any kind of runner and you haven't done Hood to Coast, you're crazy."

"I owe team 360 Goes 180 big time for all they've done for me," Mark said.

Team 360 Goes 180, named after its primary sponsor, 360 Physical Therapy, and the fact that one of its members, Mark, is halfway around the world, began bringing to life its teammate's dream back in December of 2007.

In January, the team approached

the Hood to Coast director of marketing and executive director, who were more than willing to facilitate the request. Soon after, they began soliciting sponsors.

"Getting permission from Hood to Coast was pretty easy," said Angela Wells, a teammate of Mark's. "They were receptive to the idea and very helpful. We were able to get a number of companies to sponsor our team in different ways."

Wells contacted the Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor on Camp Victory and worked out a plan to permit Mark to run his first leg in the gym by treadmill.

The event was all just another example of how supportive most Americans are of their deployed servicemembers, as team 360 Goes 180 has used the event to show troops its own immense support.

"I imagine keeping in touch with the happenings at home makes the distance seem shorter and the tough tasks at hand a little easier," Wells said. "What Jeff and everyone over in Iraq are doing for us is unimaginable. Troops sacrifice a lot to serve their country."

"One thing is clear," Mark said. "The American public – my teammates – do support the men and women serving in the military. We are all grateful for all of the support they give us every single day."

"Hopefully I'll run with them in person next year and our team bond will grow," Mark said. "All things considered, this was a great experience, and I can't wait to get back home to the states so I can do this for real."